

Letter from Montgomery Rollins to Alexander Graham Bell, April 26, 1910

MONTGOMERY ROLLINS 6 HANCOCK AVENUE BOSTON, MASS. April 26, 1910 My dear Prof. Bell:—

I wonder if you remember my father, who died in 1889 — the Hon. Edward H. Rollins of New Hampshire. He was at the time you knew him, I think, either in the United States Senate or the House of Representatives, I think in the former. Through your courtesy, he was sent a telephone outfit, complete, of which one end was installed in the drug store at Dover, New Hampshire, the wires running along the Boston & Maine Railroad's right of way, on their telegraph poles; the other instrument was situated in his summer place in Rollinsford, something over a mile away from the center of Dover. This instrument was installed very early in the history of the telephone. It was shaped something like an old-fashioned salt-box, and you talked and listened through the same opening.

It created a great deal of interest at the time, and people came from all over that section of the State, to inspect it. What I would like to ascertain is whether or no that was not one of the first instruments installed in New Hampshire, and certainly was probably the first instrument of an inter-town nature.

I am desirous of writing up something of my father's rather interesting life, and wish to get such facts as possible, regarding this very interesting occurrence.

I am only fearful that, with the multitudinous affairs of your life, this matter may have entirely passed from your memory, but I am hoping to establish some precedential claim to this installation. Any way that you can assist me will be very much appreciated.

Yours very truly, LBD. Montgomery Rollins

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To Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, c Bell & Co., 1406 G. St., Washington, D. C.